districts to effectively address security and development issues in these areas.

(viii) The Central Government will continue to provide all possible help to the States on both security and development fronts to enable them to successfully meet the challenge posed by naxalism.

Low labour productivity

*376. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the productivity of country's labourers is quite low in comparison to the labourers in the developed countries, like USA, UK, Japan and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) the labour productivity measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity) per person per hour (in US $) during the year 2003 for different countries is as follows:-

India	:	3.05
China	:	4.39
Japan	:	29.88
UK	:	30.93
USA	:	40.72

Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook 2004.

(c) Variation in labour productivity is mostly due to varying access to technology and education and factors related to the level of economic development of countries concerned.

Exemption to wood based industry in Assam

*377. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR :
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Government had some time back requested his Ministry for extending benefits of various exemptions under

the North-Eastern Industrial Policy, 1997 by issuing notification in respect of the additional industrial complexes of wood based industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the notification is likely to be issued; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New series on prices and cost of living index

*378. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced new series on Prices and Cost of Living Index with 2001=100 as the base year;

(b) if so, whether Central trade unions were consulted in this regard;

(c) whether all the Central trade unions had opposed the introduction of the same;

(d) if so, the points raised by the Central trade unions;

(e) if so, the details of outcome of the consultation; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) With the approval of the Government, the Labour Bureau has released on 9th March, 2006 the new series of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) on base 2001=100 *w.e.f.* monthly index pertaining to January, 2006.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) While there was broad concensus on technical aspects, enhanced participation in the entire exercise of a new series was sought by the Trade Unions.